

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A female terminal comprising:
a terminal-inserting portion having a bottom wall and a resilient contact piece portion extending rearwardly from a front end edge of the bottom wall to a free end portion thereof;
wherein a convex portion projecting toward said bottom wall is formed at the free end portion of said resilient contact piece portion,
when said resilient contact piece portion is resiliently deformed upon insertion of a male terminal, said convex portion is brought into contact with said bottom wall, ~~so that a front side part of said resilient contact piece portion is spaced from said bottom wall with a clearance;~~
wherein said resilient contact piece portion includes a first curved portion by which said male terminal is clamped; and
wherein said resilient contact piece portion includes an intermediate portion provided substantially in parallel to said bottom wall at a predetermined clearance so that said resilient contact piece portion extends almost substantially parallel to an insertion direction of said male terminal except said first curved portion.

2. and 3. (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): A female terminal according to claim ~~21~~, wherein a second curved portion by which said male terminal is clamped is formed on a top wall of said terminal-inserting portion.

5. (original): A female terminal according to claim 4, wherein said first curved portion and said second curved portion are opposed to each other.

6. (currently amended): A female terminal according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein said resilient contact piece portion extends almost parallel to said bottom wall except said first curved portion so as to form said clearance between said contact piece and said bottom wall.

7. (currently amended): A female terminal according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein a third curved portion is formed on said bottom wall at a position corresponding to said first curved portion.

8. (original): A female terminal according to claim 1, wherein said convex portion has a semi-arc shape in cross-section.

9. (previously presented): The female terminal according to claim 1, wherein said convex portion is spaced from said bottom wall when said male terminal has not been inserted.

10. and 11. (canceled).

Kindly add the following new claims:

12. (new): The female terminal according to claim 1, wherein said first curved portion and said convex portion are spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance (L).

13. (new): The female terminal according to claim 1, wherein two end support points of said resilient contact piece portion are formed so that a distance (L) between said two end support points is kept constant upon insertion of said male terminal.